

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of replacement drawings include changes to Figures 1-17, 23A-23D, and 24A-24F. The replacement drawings are submitted to address the Examiner's objections as set forth in the Office Action.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (28 sheets of drawings)

Remarks

Upon entry of the present amendments, Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 25, 28-36 and 38-44 remain pending in the captioned patent application. Based on at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for the pending claims.

Drawing Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figures 1-17 and 23A-24F on various grounds.

In response to these objections, attached are 28 replacement sheets of figures which are intended to fully address the Examiner's objections with respect to Figures 1-17 and 23A-24F.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second ¶

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 25, 28-36, 38-41 and 43 stand rejected under this section.

Without admitting the propriety or necessity of doing so, but rather for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 25 and 28, substantially in accordance with the Examiner's amendment suggestions as set forth in the Office Action.

Each of Claims 4, 6-8, 10, 27-36, 38-41 and 43 depends, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent Claims 1, 25 and 28, and each is therefore allowable for the same reasons as the independent claim from which it depends.

In addition, Claims 11, 12, 14, 15 and 42 stand rejected under this section.

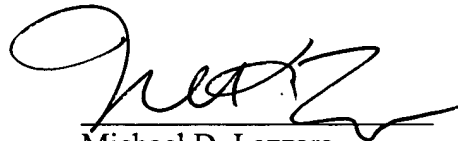
Without admitting the propriety or necessity of doing so, but rather for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, applicants have amended independent Claim 11 substantially in accordance with guidance provided by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Each of Claims 12, 14, 15 and 42 depends, either directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 11, and each is therefore allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 11.

Summary

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any outstanding issues with the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lazzara', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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